

die of starvation and disease in Holland,
where, he goes on
to say, 'you might see them sprawling by
parcels, and
groaning under the double gripes of their
bowels and their
consciences/ all in order that ' the Dutch, the
Danes and
other foreigners . . . may possess our country
'!

The question the critic of Macaulay has to
solve is this :
Why does he admit evidence against
Marlborough which
he would not admit against William? The
justice of the
character of Marlborough which Macaulay
draws in his
History is one of those much controverted
questions which
will require separate and more detailed
discussion. Here
all that is necessary to observe is that while
Macaulay
formed a right estimate of the value of a
particular class of
evidence he did not consistently carry out his
own critical
principles. When his personal prejudices
came into play
his vigilance relaxed.

There are pamphlets of another kind which
Macaulay
employs in a more legitimate fashion ; some
of them
indeed can hardly be called pamphlets. A
large amount
of ephemeral literature existed which was
devoted to
describing the social life of the time. Some of
it was in
verse, some in prose ; it mingled fact and
fiction ; its
authors were humourists who sought to
amuse their con-
temporaries by realistic descriptions of low
life and

sketches of everyday characters ; it
 contributed its share
 to the development of the novel, and the
 social essay.
 Most of the authors of this literature have long
 been forgotten by all except book collectors, and
 booksellers class
 their writings under the general heading of '
 Facetiae '
 Of these writers Tom Brown and Ned Ward
 were typical
 examples. Macaulay used them both.
 Speaking for in-
 stance of the rebuilding of St. Paul's, he
 says : 'There is

¹ Ibid. pp. 360-1.